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Report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report, which covers the period from January to December 2016, is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2106 (2013), in which the Council requested me to report annually on the implementation of resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1960 (2010) and to recommend strategic actions. Developments during the reporting period, including the rise in violent extremism and mass migration, drew attention to the attendant risk of trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual violence exploitation. Among the perpetrators are hybrid criminal-terrorist networks, which have used the bodies of women and girls as a form of currency in the political economy of war. In response, the Council adopted resolution 2331 (2016), the first to address the nexus between such trafficking, sexual violence, terrorism and transnational organized crime. This paves the way for more systematic monitoring and reporting, as well as enhanced information-sharing and judicial cooperation. It further affirmed that victims of trafficking and sexual violence committed by terrorist groups should be eligible for official redress as victims of terrorism. The acknowledgement of sexual violence as a tactic of terrorism, integral to recruitment, resourcing and radicalization strategies, links this issue formally to global action aimed at curbing terrorist financing, including the work of relevant sanctions regimes.

2. The term "conflict-related sexual violence", as used in the present report, refers to rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization, forced marriage, and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated against women, men, girls or boys that is directly or indirectly linked to a conflict. This link may be evident in the profile of the perpetrator (often affiliated with a State or non-State armed group, including a terrorist entity or network), the profile of the victim (who is frequently an actual or perceived member of a persecuted political, ethnic or religious minority, or is targeted on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity), the climate of impunity (which is generally associated with State collapse), cross-border consequences (such as displacement or trafficking in persons) and/or violations of the provisions of a ceasefire agreement. The term also encompasses

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trafficking in persons when committed in situations of conflict for the purpose of sexual violence/exploitation.

3. While many countries are affected by the threat, occurrence or legacy of conflict-related sexual violence, the present report is focused on 19 countries for which credible information is available. It should be read in conjunction with my previous annual reports on conflict-related sexual violence, which provide a cumulative basis for the listing of 46 parties (see annex). The majority of listed parties are non-State actors, with seven of these having been designated as terrorist groups pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015), the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida sanctions list. Regarding national military and police forces, those that are listed are required to engage with my Special Representative in order to develop specific, time-bound commitments and action plans to address violations and, since 2010, several have done so. Effective implementation of commitments is a key requirement for the delisting of parties. All States repeatedly listed for grave violations against children and/or conflict-related sexual violence will be prohibited from participating in United Nations peace operations.

4. The report is based on information collected by the United Nations. In this regard, the increased presence of women's protection advisers, who are responsible for convening the monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence in the field, has improved the availability and quality of information. Currently, 34 women's protection advisers are deployed in eight mission settings. All six peacekeeping missions with mandates that include the protection of civilians have established the monitoring arrangements and incorporated the matrix of early-warning indicators of conflict-related sexual violence into their broader protection structures. Two special political missions have also begun to establish these monitoring arrangements. A concerted effort to enhance prevention, early warning and swift responses to this historically hidden crime will require dedicated human and financial resources commensurate with the scale of the challenge. The prevention of sexual violence is an integral part of wider conflict prevention and, as stated in my inaugural address to the Security Council, prevention is not merely a priority, but the priority.

5. Strengthening the capacity of national institutions is critical to ensuring accountability for past crimes, as well as prevention and deterrence for the future. In this regard, the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, in accordance with its mandate under Security Council resolution 1888 (2009), has assisted governments with criminal investigation and prosecution, military justice, legislative reform, protection of victims and witnesses and reparations. Reporting directly to my Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Team of Experts is composed of specialists from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), supplemented by a roster of experts with a range of specializations. With dedicated assistance, Governments can effectively adjudicate such crimes, as demonstrated by the case of Guinea, where the technical support provided by the Team of Experts to a national panel of judges investigating mass rape and other crimes committed in September 2009, resulted in the indictments of 17 high-ranking military and political officials, including the former President, Moussa Dadis

Camara. These efforts also led to the arrest of key suspects through enhanced judicial cooperation with neighbouring countries. During the reporting period, the Team continued to promote the sharing of experiences between countries facing similar challenges and to assist in developing policies and tools such as guidelines for armed forces in Africa. By virtue of its structure and composition, the Team has contributed to enhanced coherence among its constituent entities. To date, it has engaged in the Central African Republic, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Iraq, Liberia, Mali, Somalia and South Sudan.

6. The United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict network, which consists of 13 entities and is chaired by my Special Representative, is aimed at strengthening sexual violence prevention and response through a coordinated, coherent and comprehensive approach. In 2016, through the United Nations Action multi-partner trust fund, catalytic funding was provided for the deployment of the first women's protection adviser to Iraq. An international expert was deployed to Mali on secondment from the Government of Switzerland to support the development of a national strategy on gender-based violence/sexual violence in conflict. In 2016, the network also funded five projects in the Middle East and North Africa, which support primarily Syrian and Iraqi survivors, including refugees in Lebanon and Jordan. United Nations Action further conducted a workshop in Jordan to foster synergies between the different projects, and to support the development of results-based monitoring and evaluation frameworks. Joint technical support missions were conducted to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Côte d'Ivoire, Jordan and Mali in 2016. A number of tools and knowledge products were produced to improve practice in the field, including a mapping of the global policy landscape on conflict-related sexual violence, in which gaps and opportunities linked to the implementation of the mandate on conflict-related sexual violence are assessed.

7. Recognizing that the United Nations has individuals among its ranks who engage in egregious acts of sexual exploitation and abuse, I have pledged to dramatically improve the way the United Nations prevents and responds to sexual exploitation and abuse by our own personnel and those deployed under the auspices of the United Nations. In my recent report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse: a new approach (A/71/818), I have undertaken measures within my own authority. I have set out a strategic framework to prioritize the rights and dignity of victims and to end impunity. I have also called on Member States to join me in a unified effort to detect, control and prevent incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse in order to make zero tolerance a reality.

II. Sexual violence in conflict as a tactic of war and terrorism: Overview of current trends and emerging concerns

8. In 2016, sexual violence continued to be employed as a tactic of war, with widespread and strategic rapes, including mass rapes, allegedly committed by several parties to armed conflict, mostly in conjunction with other crimes such as killing, looting, pillage, forced displacement and arbitrary detention. The strategic nature of the violence was evident in the selective targeting of victims from opposing ethnic, religious or political groups, mirroring the fault lines of the wider conflict or crisis. Patterns of sexual violence have also been seen in the context of

urban warfare, during house searches, operations in residential areas and at checkpoints. Moreover, since 2014, the United Nations has intensified its focus on the use of sexual violence as a tactic of terrorism by a range of violent extremist groups. For these actors, sexual violence advances not only such objectives as incentivizing recruitment, terrorizing populations into compliance, displacing civilians from strategic areas, eliciting operational intelligence and forcing conversions through marriage, but also entrenches an ideology based on suppressing women's rights and controlling their sexuality and reproduction. It is further used to generate revenue, as part of the shadow economy of conflict and terrorism, through sex trafficking, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution and the extortion of ransoms from desperate families. In some circumstances, women and girls are themselves treated as the "wages of war", being gifted as a form of in-kind compensation or payment to fighters, who are then entitled to resell or exploit them as they wish. The past year has also seen the use of women and girls held in sexual slavery as human shields and suicide bombers, denoting their status as expendable "resources" in the machinery of terrorism. In the context of mass migration, women and children affected by conflict, displacement or violent extremism are particularly at risk of falling prey to traffickers owing to the collapse of protective political, legal, economic and social systems.

9. At the same time, certain counter-terrorism measures have also infringed women's rights and freedoms, such as the practice of detaining those released from the captivity of violent extremist groups as potential affiliates or intelligence assets, rather than supporting them as victims and referring them to humanitarian actors. Such measures can signal to communities that such women and girls are complicit in the violence and should therefore be shunned. Sexual violence has also been used in the context of counterinsurgency operations, whereby the rape of a wife or daughter is intended to punish her absent husband, father or relative, often to pressure him to surrender to the authorities during efforts to capture actual or perceived opponents.

10. A strikingly consistent concern, across the varied contexts examined in the present report, is the intense stigma suffered by survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Survivors risk being twice traumatized: first by the action of the perpetrator, then again by the reaction of society and the State, which is often unresponsive or even punitive and discriminatory. Shame and stigma are integral to the logic of sexual violence being employed as a tactic of war or terrorism: aggressors understand that this type of crime can turn victims into outcasts, thus unravelling the family and kinship ties that hold communities together. The effect may be diminished reproductive capacity and prospects for group survival. Just as there are many manifestations of conflict-related sexual violence, there are multiple and intersecting stigmas that follow in its wake. These include the stigma of "guilt by association" with the perpetrator and their group; fear of suspected sexually transmitted infections such as HIV; the perceived dishonour of lost chastity or virginity; the stigma of maternity out of wedlock, especially where children conceived through rape are considered "children of the enemy"; homosexuality taboos, in the case of male rape; and the shame of being unable to defend oneself and loved ones. Children born of rape may themselves face a lifetime of marginalization, owing to stigma and uncertain legal status. Sociocultural stigma compounds the problem of universal underreporting of sexual violence in times of

war. Survivors who have no opportunity to disclose abuse or are forced to delay disclosure due to safety concerns and a lack of services have been found to suffer higher rates of post-traumatic stress and depression. While stigma is often framed as a persistent, long-term problem, it must be addressed in a strategic manner, because stigma can kill. As documented in many contexts, it has led to lethal retaliation, "honour" crimes, suicide, untreated diseases, unsafe abortion, economic exclusion and indigence.

11. To change conduct at the level of individuals and institutions alike, it is critical to challenge the underlying social norms that prescribe and proscribe behaviour and perpetuate victim-blame. This entails bridging the formal and informal sphere to ensure that legal and policy approaches and community-driven responses are mutually-reinforcing. There is a discernible trend of outdated and incomplete definitions of sexual violence at the level of national law, which often fail to criminalize rape in marriage, ignore coercive circumstances, and exclude males from the scope of protection, leading to permissive attitudes in wartime about sexual violence in the context of forced marriage, slavery or detention. These practices tend to be justified as "legitimate" by certain belligerent and extremist groups, and can become "normalized" and more deeply entrenched in the post-conflict phase. Similarly, legislative immunity for members of the armed and security forces can translate in wartime to a "licence to rape". Male control over women's production and reproduction can pave the way for sexual violence being deemed an acceptable and effective military strategy: a reward, an entitlement and a form of group bonding. This indicates a need for both government officials and traditional leaders to make clear through their public pronouncements and behaviour that the prohibition of sexual violence is categorical and that the stigma of culpability rests squarely with the perpetrator. Transitional justice can provide an opportunity to transform both inadequate laws and harmful social norms, by ensuring that the gravity of sexual violence is registered on the historical record and in the public memory.

12. For peacebuilding and reconciliation to take root, justice must be done, and be seen to be done, for sexual violence survivors. Otherwise, the trauma, disease, perceived dishonour, and desire for vengeance will fester within communities. Unless those who have suffered sexual violence and the children born of rape are reintegrated into their societies and economies, they will remain susceptible to exploitation and recruitment. In some cases, women and girls released from armed groups have been shunned by their communities, including on account of sexual violence, and left with no option but to rejoin the group that they had fled. Some women and girls who were ostracized following their release from violent extremist groups have fallen victim to sex trafficking, both internally and across borders. To guard against these risks, safe houses and economic livelihood programmes are urgently required for individuals released from circumstances of captivity, abduction, forced marriage, forced prostitution and/or sexual slavery.

13. There is a demonstrated link between economic security and autonomy, and physical security and autonomy. The present report finds that the vast majority of victims of conflict-related sexual violence come from marginalized, destitute and often displaced communities. Cross-national patterns show a strong correlation between economic desperation and exposure to sexual violence/exploitation, including trafficking, forced prostitution, and resort to harmful coping mechanisms,

such as child marriage. The effect of sexual violence employed as a tactic of war or terrorism is to spread fear among the civilian population, with a range of economic consequences, including facilitating the capture of land and property by forcibly displacing residents, with high levels of sexual violence seen during flight and in displacement settings. In addition, this fear restricts women's freedom of movement to continue vital economic activities. The suppression of women's employment and education increases their risk of being exposed to sexual violence, whereas economically empowered women have been shown to provide a buffer against the recruitment and radicalization of their children and other family members and thus against widening and repeating cycles of violence. Livelihood support and structurally transformative reparations can help to break the cyclical connection between poverty and sexual violence. However, despite being the measures that survivors themselves most often demand, they are precisely those least seen in responses to date.

14. Although the challenges remain daunting, convictions remain rare and new protection crises continue to emerge, the paradigm has shifted. Sexual violence is no longer treated as merely a by-product of insecurity, but rather as a significant form of insecurity in itself. The era of silence at the level of national and international institutions has given way to a sense of urgency to bring all the tools of diplomacy to bear on the issue. There is greater knowledge today than ever before about what works to prevent and deter this scourge, following operational engagements with a range of justice and security actors. Specific, time-bound commitments have been adopted by State security forces in Côte d'Ivoire, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and South Sudan, in accordance with resolutions 1960 (2010) and 2106 (2013). This includes: the issuance of orders through chains of command and the adoption of codes of conduct prohibiting sexual violence; the investigation of alleged incidents in order to hold perpetrators accountable; the identification and release of those vulnerable to sexual violence from their ranks; the designation of high-level interlocutors to ensure implementation; and, in the case of police services, the formation of specialized units capable of addressing sexual violence. Notably, the measures taken by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire have resulted in the first delisting pursuant to this mandate, namely that of the Forces armées de Côte d'Ivoire. Continued monitoring and technical assistance will be required to consolidate these gains. To sustainably transform the culture of security institutions, consistent accountability is needed at all levels of the chain of command. Under these circumstances, the enforcement of justice has been shown to have a cascade effect, whereby the prosecution of past violations deters future crimes, particularly when combined with strategies of awareness-raising, education and training.

15. Other positive developments during the reporting period included the activation of the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security, which supports the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008) and succeeding resolutions in the context of specific countries on the agenda of the Security Council's. The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, through its Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative, launched a campaign to tackle the stigma associated with sexual violence in conflict. Nadia Murad Basee Taha, who survived sexual enslavement by ISIL, was named United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking,

and has used that platform to give hope and voice to countless sexual violence survivors. Historic verdicts were handed down by the International Criminal Court in the case against Jean-Pierre Bemba, the Extraordinary African Chambers in the Senegalese courts against Hissène Habré, and the Supreme Court of Guatemala in the Sepur Zarco case, reaffirming global commitments to hold individuals accountable for conflict-related sexual violence at the highest levels. At the World Humanitarian Summit, leaders pledged to make protection from sexual violence and access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care the norm in humanitarian programming. Yet, even where laws, policies and response protocols are in place, a resurgence of hostilities, fuelled by the proliferation of arms and the proximity of combatants to civilian populations, leads unfailingly to renewed patterns of sexual violence. Peacebuilding, which entails restoring civic trust in national institutions and between communities, therefore remains one of the most critical indirect strategies for preventing conflict-related sexual violence and addressing its root causes. I thus consider the systematic engagement of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture to be a crucial aspect of this agenda.

III. Sexual violence in conflict-affected settings

Afghanistan

16. Chronic instability, combined with impunity, discriminatory cultural practices, and access constraints contribute to the underreporting of sexual violence across Afghanistan. In 2016, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) verified 11 cases of conflict-related sexual violence against women, girls and boys committed by parties to the conflict including the Afghan National Border Police, the Afghan Local Police and the Taliban. Of these cases, just two perpetrators (members of the Afghan National Border Police) were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment in accordance with the *Elimination of Violence against Women Law*. The 11 incidents include four documented cases of *bachah bazi*, involving the sexual abuse and enslavement of boys by men in positions of power, many of whom are linked to the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces. Efforts led by the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission to criminalize this practice resulted in draft legislation in March 2016, which remains under review.

17. The limited presence of women in the Afghan National Police (1.8 per cent), contributes to the underreporting of sexual violence. As part of efforts to recruit and retain more women, the Ministry of Interior Affairs established a mechanism to curb sexual harassment against female officers. On 31 January, the President inaugurated a fund to sponsor emergency services for women survivors of life-threatening violence, such as medical treatment and shelters. The revised Penal Code incorporates provisions of the *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court* on sexual violence as a war crime, a crime against humanity and an act of genocide. Following the 2015 launch of its national action plan on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), the Government has adopted measures to implement and monitor its commitments, although funding for those activities has yet to be specified.

Recommendation

18. I urge the Government to reinforce the capacity of its justice system to provide accountability and remedies for sexual violence crimes, to allocate adequate resources for the implementation of its national action plan on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and to adopt legislation to criminalize *bachah bazi*.

Central African Republic

19. In early 2016, a new Government was democratically elected in the Central African Republic, yet the security situation remained volatile across large swaths of the country. Several prefectures were shaken by clashes in the second half of the year, leading to the displacement of thousands of civilians and a pattern of conflict-related sexual violence of an ethnic and sectarian nature. During the reporting period, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) recorded 179 cases of conflict-related sexual violence committed primarily by ex-Séléka, anti-balaka and Révolution et Justice elements and by the Lord's Resistance Army. These incidents included 151 rapes, of which 54 were gang rapes, as well as six forced marriages and four cases of sexual slavery. The victims included 92 women, 86 girls and one boy, although the actual number is suspected to be far higher than the figures reported.

20. Victims of conflict-related sexual violence were generally assaulted in their homes, en route to markets or fields, and in and around displacement camps. Most incidents took place in the course of essential livelihood activities, such as farming or firewood collection. Sexual violence also occurred in the context of intercommunal clashes aimed at humiliating or punishing the target population, as well as against women suspected of engaging in trade across the sectarian divide. In Ouham-Pendé, where conflict intensified in 2016, 14 cases of sexual violence were committed by ex-Séléka and Révolution et Justice elements, as well as by anti-balaka forces, against victims ranging from 14 to 40 years. In Kaga Bandoro, several cases of sexual violence, including gang rapes, were allegedly committed by armed Fulani herders during clashes on 12 October. At least 25 per cent of the 1,685 cases of sexual violence recorded countrywide by humanitarian agencies occurred in Kaga Bandoro, where women reported that sexual violence was being used by ex-Séléka elements to demean and destabilize communities. In mid-2016 in Ngaounday, armed elements, reportedly from Chad, raped 19 women and girls in a single night during attacks on several villages. The Lord's Resistance Army continued its decade-old pattern of abduction, rape, forced marriage, forced impregnation and sexual slavery. Cases of conflict-related sexual violence committed by members of the Uganda People's Defence Forces, which are based in Obo as part of operations against the Lord's Resistance Army, were also documented in 2016.

21. Children conceived as a result of rape are rarely accepted by society. A large number of rape victims resort to unsafe abortion, which is the leading cause of maternal mortality. In Yalinga, a woman who had been raped by the Lord's Resistance Army reported that she was rejected and forced to leave her family once her child was born. In Obo, three children born of rapes by Lord's Resistance Army commanders and their mothers were subjected to discrimination. The community dubbed these children *tonkotonko*, a local term for the Lord's Resistance Army. However, according to their mothers, the prejudice diminished over time.

22. Barriers to reporting sexual violence are as much socioeconomic as they are logistical. In addition to war-ravaged infrastructure, poor transportation and communications networks, there are cultural taboos and a general lack of awareness that rape is a serious crime. In terms of service provision, only 32 per cent of recorded victims received emergency assistance within 72 hours of the incident, owing to the lack of available health services and the prohibitive cost of travel from remote locations. Income-generating activities have been shown to enhance both self-reliance and safety. For example, the United Nations Police has supported the creation of women's associations in displacement camps, enabling women to acquire livelihood skills in order to reduce the risk of sexual exploitation.

23. Continuing insecurity has paralysed the justice system, resulting in most rape cases being resolved through "amicable settlements", such as promises of marriage, including the payment of a dowry or other financial compensation. Forced marriage, as a negative coping mechanism to protect the victim's "honour", has also increased. The Ministry of Justice issued a circular in March 2016 requiring sentences for sexual violence crimes to be upgraded from "correctional" to criminal sanctions, to provide a stronger deterrent. However, the lack of forensic capacity, with just one medical examiner in the country, constrains investigation. Nonetheless, progress has been made to activate the joint rapid response unit to combat sexual violence, in accordance with the recommendation of my previous report (S/2016/361). The Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict visited Bangui in June and urged the Government to accelerate efforts to appoint national police and gendarmerie officers to the unit. In November, the United Nations Police supported training for members of the unit. The Team of Experts has endeavoured to ensure that conflict-related sexual violence will be central to the work of a special criminal court established by law in 2015. The process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, due to start in 2017, will include support for women combatants and those associated with armed groups, and a specific budget has been allocated to address conflict-related sexual violence concerns.

Recommendation

24. I encourage the Government to activate the joint rapid response unit to combat sexual violence and ensure that its staff are trained and equipped, as well as to extend cost-free services to sexual violence survivors and to accelerate efforts to establish the special criminal court.

Colombia

25. In November 2016, four years of negotiations between the Government and the *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo* (FARC-EP) culminated in a final peace accord. This marked an end to five decades of conflict in which, as the Constitutional Court of Colombia affirmed in 2008, sexual violence was widespread and systematic. Informal peace dialogues between the Government and the *Ejército de Liberación Nacional*, the second-largest guerilla group in Colombia, also continued during the reporting period.

26. During a joint visit to the Havana talks in July by my Special Representative and the Executive Director of UN-Women, the Government and FARC-EP publicly

committed to delivering justice and support to sexual violence survivors. In terms of transitional justice, the final peace accord provides for the establishment of a truth commission and a special jurisdiction for peace, which identifies sexual violence as a grave violation that cannot be amnestied. The agreement contains strong commitments on gender and the request that my Special Representative, UN-Women, the Government of Sweden, and the Women's International Democratic Federation support their implementation. On 25 January, the Security Council established a special political mission of unarmed international observers to monitor and verify the ceasefire, cessation of hostilities and process of disarmament (see Council resolution 2261 (2016)). The gender-based violence subcluster supported predeployment training on conflict-related sexual violence for the observers.

27. Colombia has developed an exemplary legal framework for addressing conflict-related sexual violence, including Law 1719 on access to justice for victims and various Constitutional Court orders urging the authorities to address such crimes. In response, the Office of the Attorney-General has adopted an investigation protocol for sexual violence and deployed legal teams to 17 affected provinces. Nonetheless, just 2 per cent of the 634 cases of conflict-related sexual violence documented by the Constitutional Court have been translated into convictions to date.

28. While gaps in the data persist, primarily due to underreporting, the Ombudsman's Early Warning System indicated that the risk of sexual violence remained high in at least 12 departments throughout 2016. The Ombudsman's Women and Gender Delegate registered 2,914 incidents of gender-based violence for the period from January to October, of which 466 were conflict-related sexual violence. This represents an increase in reports of gender-based violence overall, but a lower proportion of conflict-related sexual violence relative to previous years. The Office of the Ombudsman warned of a heightened risk of such violence as former combatants return to communities. The National Victims' Unit registered 85 cases of conflict-related sexual violence between January and November, in 31 per cent of which Afro-Colombian women were targeted.

29. The United Nations documented 79 cases of sexual violence during sporadic operations by armed groups in 2016, including forced prostitution, sexual torture, sexual slavery and harassment by armed groups and forces. In approximately 90 per cent of cases, the perpetrators numbered three or more and the victims had previously suffered conflict-related sexual violence, with the first assault generally taking place in childhood. United Nations partners are also monitoring the response to a number of emblematic sexual violence incidents, which are part of the legacy of conflict. For example, in Santander province, a pattern of sexual violence against schoolgirls by post-demobilization groups was documented, with a former principal and a former police inspector both facing trial for facilitating sexual slavery and forced recruitment. Since 2015, OHCHR has tracked the case of 10 girls who were subjected to sexual abuse by members of the post-demobilization group, Clan del Golfo, in Antioquia province. To date, just one individual has been brought to justice for the crimes. In Putumayo province, UNHCR documented the case of a 12-year-old displaced girl who was sexually exploited for two years, allegedly by a member of FARC-EP. Her schoolteacher, who had reported the incident, was forced to flee the area following threats and intimidation.

30. In response to a pattern of sexual harassment targeting women activists, including those who championed gender justice during the peace process, the Government conducted security-risk assessments for 1,164 women leaders, finding 675 to be facing an elevated risk of violence by armed actors. While the authorities have put in place risk-mitigation measures, the Ombudsman notes that protection must be better adapted to specific needs and contexts. There is still a paucity of psychosocial support services available and an insufficient number of shelters for survivors, particularly in remote areas.

Recommendation

31. I commend the Government of Colombia and FARC-EP on their historic achievement to place gender justice at the heart of the Colombian peace process, and urge them to ensure that it remains central during implementation. This precedent should inform the ongoing peace dialogues between the Government and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional. I call for the work of transitional justice mechanisms to pay specific attention to the plight and rights of women, girls and all survivors of sexual violence; for verification of the ceasefire to include monitoring of sexual violence; and for risk-reduction measures to be embedded in the process of laying down arms.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

32. In 2016, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) verified 514 cases of conflict-related sexual violence. The victims included 340 women, 170 girls, three men and one boy. During the same period, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reported 2,593 cases of sexual violence in conflict-affected provinces.

33. The majority of perpetrators were non-State armed groups, who were responsible for 68 per cent of verified incidents. Among these groups, the Force de résistance patriotiques de l'Ituri was responsible for 20 per cent of incidents occurring mainly during attacks on villages and ambushes in Ituri Province. Mai Mai Raia Mutomboki combatants were responsible for 18 per cent of reported cases overall, raping 90 women and girls in four separate attacks between January and November in North and South Kivu provinces. Mai Mai Simba factions remained active at mining sites in the Mambasa territory of Ituri province and were liable for 4 per cent of reported incidents of conflict-related sexual violence. MONUSCO separated 40 girls from armed groups, all of whom reported being subjected to rape, sexual slavery, forced marriage or other forms of sexual violence.

34. Government security forces were responsible for the remainder of verified incidents, with 27 per cent of these violations attributed to the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC). The Congolese national police and members of the Congolese national intelligence agency were responsible for 5 per cent of cases. In order to foster prevention and improve the response, FARDC continues to implement its action plan to combat sexual violence. In 2016, 193 military field commanders signed undertakings to prevent and address sexual violence and 200 commanders were trained on their legal obligations.

35. The United Nations documented 100 convictions of members of the State security forces for sexual violence crimes in 2016. Verdicts were also handed down

in cases involving four combatants affiliated with the then *Mouvement du 23 Mars* for rape and three Nyatura combatants for sexual slavery. Arrests were also made in cases of sexual violence against children in Kavumu, South Kivu. On 17 March, a witness was assassinated following his testimony in the case. Human rights defenders supporting sexual violence trials have also reported intimidation by the authorities in South Kivu province. The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and military judicial authorities, with the assistance of the Team of Experts, UNDP, MONUSCO and the International Center for Transitional Justice, prioritized 26 of the gravest cases of conflict-related sexual violence for prosecution.

36. Several mass rape incidents dating back to 2010, such as the Walikale, Bushani, and Kalambahiro cases, remain unresolved, with arrest warrants still unexecuted, with the exception of that for Séraphin Lionso, whom the Government arrested in connection with the Walikale mass rape of 387 victims. Other members of his group, the Mai Mai Cheka, remain active in the conflict and continued to commit rapes in 2016. On 29 July, my Special Representative again urged the Government to act on the arrest warrant against Ntabo Ntaberi Cheka, the leader of the group. Judicial awards of reparations to rape victims, for which the State is liable, remain unpaid.

37. With respect to service delivery, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and partners in North and South Kivu provided medical, psychosocial, legal and socioeconomic reintegration support to 1,410 survivors of rape by combatants. Despite ongoing efforts by the Government and partners, challenges remain in providing multisectoral assistance to survivors in the east, owing to the limited reach of national institutions. In particular, access to post-exposure prophylaxis, treatment for sexually transmitted infections and mental health support is inadequate. In October, the Personal Representative of the President on Sexual Violence, in partnership with the United Nations, convened a high-level conference in Kinshasa to evaluate progress made on implementing the joint communiqué by my Special Representative and the Government on sexual violence in conflict, resulting in a three-year road map of national priorities (2017-2019).

Recommendation

38. I urge the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to sustain its efforts to combat sexual violence, including by bringing perpetrators to justice irrespective of rank or affiliation, ensuring that victims and witnesses are protected and that reparations are paid. I call on the authorities to implement action plans for the army and police, as well as the road map of priorities, and to scale up services, including socioeconomic reintegration support.

Iraq

39. Since the rise of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) in 2014, civilians have been subjected to sexual violence on a horrific scale, notably during the brutal attacks by ISIL on Mosul, Sinjar, Tall'Afar and the Ninewa plains in the north. In the context of ongoing military operations, launched in October 2016, to reclaim Mosul and its environs, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq continues to receive reports of such violations committed by ISIL, primarily against women and girls from ethnic and religious minority groups. According to

declaration in October by the Director of Yazidi Affairs in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, 971 Yazidi women and girls have been freed from ISIL, while 1,882 remain enslaved in territories under its control in both Iraq and Syria. Another official noted that ISIL has forcibly transferred a number of Yazidis from Mosul to Raqqah (Syria). Such statements corroborate reports of trafficking, including the sale and trade of women and children, as well as the use of sexually enslaved women as human shields by ISIL during the Mosul operations.

40. Obtaining data on such crimes is complicated by ongoing military operations and social factors such as fear of stigmatization. New challenges have emerged, including the need to address the status of children born to rape survivors and to reintegrate survivors into their communities. Meeting these challenges will require both legislative action and engagement with religious and community leaders to encourage the acceptance of survivors and their children. This will be a critical component of broader intracommunity and intercommunity reconciliation. Addressing the consequences of conflict-related sexual violence will require a scaling-up of resources for psychosocial services and for the proper documentation of crimes, as the reign of terror by ISIL recedes and its impact on communities becomes clearer.

41. To this end, several United Nations agencies are supporting the authorities to address conflict-related sexual violence in three key areas, namely: building capacity for the delivery of multisectoral services; fostering community resilience to prevent and mitigate violence and harmful traditional practices; and strengthening coordination and advocacy. To complement these efforts, on 23 September, the United Nations signed a joint communiqué with the Government to prevent and address conflict-related sexual violence. The joint communiqué covers six priority areas: legislative and policy reform; accountability; services and reparations; engaging religious and tribal leaders, civil society and women's groups; integrating gender considerations into counter-terrorism measures; and awareness-raising. My Special Representative visited Iraq in February 2017 to advance the implementation of those commitments.

Recommendation

42. I call upon the Government of Iraq to ensure that allegations of sexual violence are investigated and prosecuted and that services are scaled up to meet the needs of survivors, including through the establishment of safe houses and shelters, operated in collaboration with women's civil society groups. I further urge the authorities to integrate a gender perspective into counter-terrorism strategies.

Libya

43. Sustained violence and conflict across Libya, in a context of acute political instability, continued to exacerbate the plight of civilians, with the situation of migrants raising particular concerns. Libya remains a country of transit, with 162,895 arrivals to Italy by sea recorded by UNHCR in 2016. In the course of their journey, women and girls are often exposed to sexual violence by some parties to the conflict, as well as by smugglers, traffickers and other criminal groups. They also face threats and incidents of sexual violence when held, sometimes for months, in detention centres under poor conditions. Groups pledging allegiance to ISIL have

been involved in the abduction and sexual abuse of women and children. Testimony from women released from ISIL captivity, following military operations in Sirte, reveals a pattern of sexual assault and slavery, particularly against migrants. Some of the survivors are pregnant as a result of rape. Women and children rescued from ISIL captivity have routinely been detained by the authorities in Jawiya prison in Misrata, in precarious conditions of overcrowding, without women guards. In this context, a 16-year-old Eritrean girl reported that the detaining authorities denied her access to an abortion, despite her informing them that she had been raped by an ISIL fighter.

44. According to the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, women's rights defenders, both in Libya and in exile, have received threats of sexual and other violence. A video showing the gang rape of a woman by a militia operating in Tripoli known as the Awashir Brigade, was widely circulated, provoking public outrage. The suspected perpetrator has since been detained; however, the failure to prevent such acts of sexual violence was among the reasons cited by the former Deputy Prime Minister, Musa al-Koni, for his resignation in early 2017.

Recommendation

45. I call upon the authorities to review the migration policy of Libya and adopt protection measures to mitigate the risk of sexual violence in the context of immigration detention; to implement Security Council resolution 2331 (2016) by ensuring that those who escape from ISIL captivity are recognized and supported as victims of terrorism; and to prosecute perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence and provide reparations to victims in line with Decree No. 119 (2014).

Mali

46. The ongoing crisis in the northern and central regions, combined with a lack of services, limited humanitarian access, stigma and fear of reprisals continues to impede reporting of conflict-related sexual violence. Few survivors file legal complaints or seek care, owing to a lack of confidence in legal and medical institutions following instances of rapists being released from custody and complainants being pressured to drop their cases. In January 2016, the suspect in a case concerning the alleged sexual assault of 19 children was released from custody. In the region of Gao, the parents of a young victim were forced by the examining magistrate to withdraw their complaint and settle the case out of court. In the case of a gang rape allegedly committed by three members of the Malian Defence and Security Forces in Timbuktu, the victim's father initially filed a complaint, but withdrew it shortly afterwards without explanation.

47. The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) investigated 23 cases of conflict-related sexual violence in 2016, including rape, gang rape, forced prostitution, sexual slavery and forced marriage. One of the cases was perpetrated by three members of the Malian Defence and Security Forces, four by elements of the Groupe d'autodéfense des Touaregs Imghad et leurs alliés, and the others by civilians. Ten of the victims were members of the Bella community, an ethnic group that has long suffered discrimination. The incidents took place in the regions of Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal and in a refugee camp in Mauritania. Humanitarian service providers also recorded five sexual

assaults by elements of the Malian Defence and Security Forces, a case of sexual violence by members of the Mouvement pour l'unicité et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest, and another by the Mouvement national pour la libération de l'Azawad.

48. Efforts were made to engage the parties in 2016. In April, my Special Representative visited Mali to assess the situation and agree on a joint communiqué with the Government as a basis for cooperation in addressing sexual violence. The joint communiqué has not yet been agreed by the authorities. However, on 30 June, the President of the Plateforme des mouvements du 14 juin 2014 d' Alger signed a unilateral communiqué in which he committed to work with the leaders of the Coordination des mouvements et forces patriotiques de résistance, Mouvement arabe de l'Azawad and the Groupe d'autodéfense Touaregs Imghad et leurs alliés to accelerate efforts to prevent and punish sexual violence within their ranks.

49. Resistance to changing traditional practices continues to hamper efforts to criminalize all forms of sexual and gender-based violence. The Government has therefore worked with the United Nations to conduct sensitization sessions with religious leaders, prompting some to commit publicly to supporting new laws and to speaking out against sexual violence. Support provided by MINUSMA to the Ministry of Justice has led to the investigation of a number of alleged rapes. Nonetheless, progress remains slow in relation to cases of sexual violence committed by extremist groups in 2012, with just 37 of the 80 victims having been heard by a magistrate. Initiatives by the Peacebuilding Fund have enhanced confidence in the justice system, resulting in an increase in the cases of sexual violence that are brought to court in Gao and Timbuktu from just 1 per cent to almost 14 per cent. The Fund has supported the establishment of *cases de la paix* (peace huts) in northern Mali, which provide safe havens where survivors can receive psychosocial and medical support. In 2016, MINUSMA initiated several projects to facilitate the economic reintegration of survivors, including quick impact projects to impart income-generating skills.

Recommendation

50. I urge the Government of Mali to adopt legislation prohibiting all forms of sexual violence; to ensure the timely investigation of cases, the protection of victims, witnesses and their families, the vetting of past perpetrators from the armed and security forces; and to sign a joint communiqué with my Special Representative to enable a more structured response.

Myanmar

51. Sexual violence continues to be underreported in Myanmar owing to entrenched discrimination, fear of retaliation, limited access to services, and a lack of trust and confidence in the police and judicial system. Barriers to accountability are even greater when sexual violence is committed by members of the national security forces. On 9 October 2016, operations were launched in Northern Rakhine State in response to attacks against border guard police in the region, with numerous allegations of human rights violations, including sexual violence, reported against the Rohingyas (an ethnic Muslim minority) by the Myanmar Armed Forces (the Tatmadaw), the Border Guard Police Force, and the Police Force of Myanmar. An estimated 66,000 civilians have fled to Bangladesh following the operations. On the

basis of first-hand information from those who had crossed the border, OHCHR reported in February 2017 that more than 50 of the 100 women and girls interviewed described having been subjected to rape, gang rape or other forms of sexual violence, apparently employed systematically to humiliate and terrorize their community. Some of the rapes were carried out in front of relatives, as well as to punish women for their perceived support for "insurgents", who are often male family members. Only those survivors who managed to cross the border have been able to access care.

52. Despite the *Emergency Treatment of Patients Law* (2014), which waived mandatory reporting by service providers to the police in cases of sexual violence, the practice persists, further inhibiting reporting and response. The risk of sexual violence linked with conflict and displacement, notably in Kachin and Northern Shan States, is compounded by a lack of educational and employment opportunities. This physical and economic insecurity leaves civilians, particularly those who are internally displaced, at heightened risk of trafficking, including for the purposes of forced marriage and sexual exploitation.

Recommendation

53. I urge the Government of Myanmar to facilitate humanitarian access to Northern Rakhine State, including to assist survivors of sexual violence. To ensure that there is no impunity for such crimes, I reiterate calls made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2016 to repeal immunity provisions for members of the security forces. I also call upon the authorities to ensure the implementation of the *Emergency Treatment of Patients Law* (2014), and to harmonize the domestic definition of rape, which derives from the Penal Code of 1860, with current international standards.

Somalia

54. Widespread sexual violence continues to be a feature of protracted conflict in Somalia. Internally displaced women and girls and members of minority clans remain the most vulnerable, owing to a lack of preventive measures, limited access to justice and weak clan protection. Large population movements, such as the return of over 30,000 Somali refugees from Kenya, have also increased the vulnerability of women and girls on the move.

55. Between January and September 2016, the United Nations verified information on conflict-related sexual violence against 200 girls and 1 boy. The violations were attributed to unknown armed elements (55), clan militia (60), Al-Shabaab (21), Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama'a (3), and the Somali National Army (59). Three rapes of girls were also attributed to the African Union Mission to Somalia, as addressed in my report (A/71/818). In the last quarter of 2016, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia documented 14 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence, including five gang rapes, allegedly committed by Al-Shabaab, the Interim South-West Administration of the Puntland Army, and the Somali national police. The perpetrators were prosecuted in two of those cases, while in three others the suspects were released owing to clan pressure or lack of evidence. Al-Shabaab responded to the rape of a boy by one of its fighters by summarily stoning the perpetrator to death.

56. The pattern of forced marriage of women and girls to militants persisted in 2016, with 13 incidents documented involving Al-Shabaab, Ahl Sunna Wal-Jama'a, and soldiers of the Somali National Army. An emerging trend during the reporting period involved the authorities subjecting the relatives and wives of alleged Al-Shabaab members to collective punishment, including extrajudicial executions, sexual violence and arbitrary arrests. The authorities justify such treatment on the grounds that the relatives of Al-Shabaab members support the insurgency by providing information and thus constitute a threat. A similar phenomenon is affecting children separated from Al-Shabaab, as reported by the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea (see S/2016/919), which documented allegations of sexual abuse against detainees at the Mogadishu Serendi camp, including in the context of intelligence-gathering. Reported threats of sexual assault in settings such as the Mogadishu central prison and facilities overseen by the National Intelligence and Security Agency were also received by the United Nations.

57. A sexual offences act was adopted in Puntland on 20 August, and sexual offences bills are awaiting passage by Parliament in Somalia and Somaliland. A protocol for the clinical management of rape is in place to enhance the quality of care and 17 "one-stop centres" have been established across the country. The protocol includes referrals to safe houses, which provided temporary protection to 61 survivors during the first half of 2016. Other efforts to address sexual violence include the provision of free legal services and the establishment of mobile courts. Despite these improvements, obtaining convictions remains a challenge: families tend to withdraw complaints in favour of reaching settlements outside the formal system, which benefits clans rather than survivors. In response, the Government has developed a traditional dispute resolution policy to encourage sexual violence cases to be brought before the courts. The establishment in 2016 of the Women and Child Protection Unit within the police, in line with a new approach that aims to bolster gender balance and capacity, is another positive development.

Recommendation

58. I urge the Government to adopt the sexual offences bills and to strengthen reporting mechanisms on sexual violence. I also urge the Government to implement Security Council resolution 2331 (2016) by ensuring that women and children separated from Al-Shabaab receive support as victims of terrorism, rather than being treated as threats or intelligence assets.

South Sudan

59. Since December 2013, South Sudan has been riven by conflict. Widespread and systematic sexual violence has been used as a tactic of war to terrorize and persecute populations in a manner that indicates its ethnic, as well as political, undertones. The latest wave of unrest resulted in almost two million people being displaced internally and over one million fleeing across borders, exacerbating the risk of sexual violence by militias, armed youth and elements of the security forces. Fear spread by sexual violence causes women to restrict their movements, impeding livelihood activities. The situation is exacerbated by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Pervasive impunity has normalized extreme patterns of violence, as national institutions are unable to effectively prosecute rape or provide remedies. The weakness of the formal justice system has increased reliance on traditional

mechanisms, which generally do not regard rape as a grave crime, and routinely settle cases by ordering victims to marry perpetrators.

60. In 2016, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) documented 577 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence, including rape, gang rape and sexual slavery. The survivors included 57 girls, several of whom were below 10 years of age, with two being less than one year old. In addition, service providers recorded 376 cases of sexual violence, of which 157 were forced marriage, with State and non-State armed actors among the alleged perpetrators. Overall trends point to an alarming increase in the number of rapes, with 20 per cent more victims seeking services following sexual assault. The period under review also saw a 32 per cent increase in the number of cases of gender-based violence perpetrated by men in uniform, as compared with 2015. In addition, cases of abduction for the purpose of sexual slavery more than doubled. The pattern of perpetrators and victims coming from rival ethnic groups persists, with insults often levelled, during attacks, at the victim's ethnicity or perceived allegiance.

61. The greatest frequency and severity of recorded crimes occurred in July 2016, in connection with active hostilities. Ethnic targeting, together with that of pregnant women, children and the elderly, in violation of social taboos, indicates that sexual violence is being used as part of retaliation strategies intended to punish communities. Reports also implicate the South Sudanese National Police Service in a number of violations. Of the cases of conflict-related sexual violence recorded by UNMISS, 217 were committed between 8 and 25 July, with most occurring at Sudan People's Liberation Army checkpoints near camps, which are designated as protection of civilians sites. Those affected were generally displaced Nuer women and girls, with the majority of perpetrators being members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, although some women also reported attacks by armed youth affiliated with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army-in-Opposition. One mass rape incident involving 16 women and 12 girls occurred at a Sudan People's Liberation Army checkpoint two kilometres from United Nations House. Survivors reported that, in some villages, the Sudan People's Liberation Army used sexual violence to punish women who refused to provide information on the whereabouts of their male relatives, accusing them of supporting the opposition. In this connection, UNMISS documented three cases of gang rape, involving three women, with one of the victims being 70 years of age. Also linked with the July clashes in Juba was an episode that generated widespread media attention, in which Sudan People's Liberation Army soldiers attacked the Terrain compound housing international humanitarian workers, looting, threatening and harassing residents. Several women were dragged out of hiding and raped or gang-raped by soldiers, some of whom were just 15 years of age. The effect of intimidation against female humanitarian workers has been to limit outreach and service delivery. In September, 30 women were sexually assaulted in Juba near protection of civilians sites. Several incidents were also documented in November in Central Equatoria State, allegedly perpetrated by Sudan People's Liberation Army soldiers.

62. Despite preventive measures by UNMISS, conflict-related sexual violence persists in proximity to protection of civilians sites. Arms bearers prey upon displaced women when they leave camps to fetch firewood, tend fields or access marketplaces, often raping them and confiscating their goods. In one such incident, in Western Bahr el-Ghazal State, a pregnant woman was gang-raped at gunpoint by

four Sudan People's Liberation Army soldiers, who attacked her at night while she was returning to camp. Other allegations of sexual violence against internally displaced women by Sudan People's Liberation Army soldiers were recorded during hostilities in Central Equatoria. Women were sexually harassed and enslaved, with some reportedly held for over four months, during which time they witnessed the killing of other sexually enslaved women. In a challenging operational environment, UNMISS has enhanced early-warning systems, facilitated the supply of food and fuel, patrolled high-risk areas, established weapons-free zones around camps, and negotiated the replacement of soldiers at checkpoints with police officers, which has reduced the frequency of sexual assault. The United Nations has also made efforts to ensure that rape kits are stocked and medical personnel are trained on the clinical management of rape. My Special Representative and her Team of Experts have engaged with the parties to reinforce individual and command responsibility for preventing and punishing sexual violence and to develop an implementation plan focused on accountability and the protection of victims, witnesses and service providers. Despite commitments made by both parties, sexual violence has increased in severity and scale. Successive ceasefire agreements since 2014 have failed to curb the behaviour of combatants, and sexual violence continues to deepen insecurity, delaying peace and reconciliation.

Recommendation

63. I urge parties to the conflict in South Sudan to implement the commitments made in their respective communiqués to end conflict-related sexual violence, to ensure the effective functioning of special protection units on sexual and gender-based violence in the police, to hold perpetrators to account and to respect the sanctity of protection of civilians sites.

Sudan (Darfur)

64. Patterns of widespread and systematic sexual violence have devastated the lives and livelihoods of women and girls in Darfur over the past 13 years, and the perpetrators continue to operate in a climate of impunity. As a consequence, the threat and terror of sexual violence continues to cast a shadow over everyday life, restricting women's freedom of movement. As in previous years, most attacks took place when women ventured to isolated areas to farm or collect firewood. While the active conflict is now primarily focused in the Jebel Marra area, localized intercommunal violence, militia activity and banditry have continued in the five states of Darfur. Sexual and gender-based violence remains a serious concern, in particular for vulnerable populations at camps for internally displaced persons.

65. In 2016, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) documented 100 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence, affecting 222 victims, specifically 102 women, 119 girls and one boy. As in previous years, more than half the victims were children. The incidents included rape, gang rape, attempted rape, abduction for the purpose of sexual assault and sexual harassment. Ten per cent of these cases occurred during displacement. In 15 per cent of cases, the victims numbered two or more, as women and girls have tried to improve their safety by travelling in groups, although this seems to provide minimal deterrence with regard to armed men. The incidents occurred primarily in North Darfur, Sortony, Tawilla, and Shangil Tobayi, coinciding with the presence of armed militia.

66. The largest number of cases (63 per cent) was recorded between January and June, as a result of hostilities between the Government and the Abdul Wahid faction of the Sudan Liberation rebel movement in Jebel Marra. During these operations, women were raped and abducted, with internally displaced women accounting for 67 per cent of the victims. In terms of the overall profile of the perpetrators, 96 per cent were described by victims and witnesses as armed men, of which 76 per cent were identified by victims as "armed Arab men" or "militia". Twenty per cent were identified as members of the security forces, namely the Sudanese Armed Forces, the Rapid Support Forces, the Central Reserve Police and border guards, including police officials. The remaining cases were attributed to unidentified assailants or civilians. The available data does not reflect the actual scale and magnitude of violations, which are underreported owing to stigma, fear of reprisals, community pressure, weak institutions and significant access restrictions.

67. Some important response initiatives were undertaken by the Government, including amendment of the Criminal Act to make a clear distinction between rape and adultery, and the expansion of the mandate of the Darfur Special Court to include rape. UNAMID has enhanced interactions with local communities, tailoring patrolling schedules to women's livelihood activities. UNICEF continued to support family and child protection units within the Sudan Police in Darfur, and UNFPA trained local service providers on the clinical management of rape and distributed rape kits through the Ministry of Health. The legally discontinued, but still widely upheld, requirement that victims obtain a specific form ("form 8") from the police in order to receive medical care deters reporting. In 2016, the United Nations verified 50 cases of conflict-related sexual violence, concerning 105 victims, reported to law enforcement officials. Investigations were opened in 6 of the cases, resulting in four arrests, of which three proceeded to trial. Government data indicates 112 reported cases of sexual and gender-based violence during 2016, of which 40 were brought to court, with 13 convictions. In 2015, the United Nations verified 45 cases reported to the police, leading to eight trials, and in 2014, 63 reports generated two convictions. As sexual violence cases are not consistently prosecuted, many communities resort to traditional settlements, which often decree that the victim should marry the perpetrator. In an encouraging development, in 2016, a court in West Darfur successfully convicted a police officer for the sexual exploitation of a minor. Despite the lasting impact of sexual violence on survivors, including those with children born as a result of rape, no reparations have been paid.

Recommendation

68. I urge the Government of Sudan to ensure unhindered humanitarian access for the United Nations and its partners to affected communities, and to strengthen national institutions to deliver survivor-centred justice and services. Further to the listing of parties in the Sudan in the annex, I reiterate calls for the Government to facilitate a visit by my Special Representative and to develop a framework of cooperation to address conflict-related sexual violence.

Syrian Arab Republic

69. Sexual violence continues to be used by parties to the Syrian conflict as a systematic tactic of warfare, terrorism and torture. Women and girls have been most vulnerable in the context of house searches, at checkpoints, in detention facilities, after kidnapping by pro-Government forces, and at border crossings, while men and boys have been subjected to sexual violence during interrogations in Government-run detention centres. In areas controlled by ISIL, Syrian women and girls languish under severe restrictions, with their access to education and employment curtailed. Thousands of Yazidi women and girls who were captured in Iraq in August 2014 and trafficked to Syria continue to be held in sexual slavery, while new reports have surfaced of additional women and children being forcibly transferred from Iraq to Syria since the start of military operations in Mosul. As the conflict enters its seventh year, forced marriage, including successive temporary marriages, has become increasingly prevalent, placing adolescent girls at particular risk of rape, early and unwanted pregnancy and trauma. Women and children, who represent the vast majority of those internally displaced, have also experienced sexual exploitation in camps. Given social norms around honour and shame, the stigma associated with sexual violence causes acute humiliation to survivors, their families and communities. The parents or husbands of survivors often reject them in the wake of rape or because they assume that women and girls were raped while in detention. The lack of services and fear of retaliation has compelled many survivors to flee the country.

70. In neighbouring countries, which host approximately 80 per cent of Syrian refugees, financial resources have been largely depleted. Families have turned to harmful coping strategies, such as exploitative labour and the withdrawal of children from education to enter into employment or early marriage. While these coping mechanisms may help a family to meet its immediate needs, they often come at the cost of increased exposure to sexual violence. It also remains a challenge to register children whose fathers are missing, including children born to survivors of rape, which places them at heightened risk of statelessness. Women, adolescent girls and unaccompanied minors are also at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse by informal employers, landlords and criminal organizations, including forced prostitution and trafficking networks. Limited services are available to male survivors of sexual violence, who may be at risk of arrest pursuant to laws that criminalize same-sex relations.

71. The establishment in 2016 of the Syrian Women's Advisory Board, to provide recommendations to the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria throughout the political process, recognized the importance of women's participation. In the intra-Syrian talks of 2016, the proportion of women in the main delegation was 20 per cent. In terms of accountability, although not a single sexual violence crime committed by parties to the conflict has been prosecuted, either in Syria or abroad, the adoption in December 2016 of resolution 71/248 by the General Assembly, in which it calls for the establishment of an international, impartial and independent mechanism to support prosecution for the most serious crimes under international law, is an important development. In the terms of reference for the mechanism the need for dedicated expertise on sexual violence is noted.

Recommendation

72. I call on all parties to the Syrian conflict to immediately cease the use of sexual violence as a tactic of war or terrorism, and urge such crimes to be taken into account in ceasefire agreements, political negotiations, peace processes and accountability initiatives. I encourage refugee-receiving countries to protect and support Syrian refugees who may have suffered sexual violence or be at risk of exploitation.

Yemen

73. Reports of sexual and gender-based violence increased in 2016, exacerbated by the protracted nature of the conflict, widespread insecurity and militarization, the breakdown of formal and informal protection mechanisms, as well as large-scale displacement. The massive internal displacement has given rise to negative survival strategies, in both displaced and host communities, such as child marriage and forced prostitution. Internally displaced women and girls, as well as migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, are acutely vulnerable to sexual violence. Daily threats to their safety, including sexual harassment, restrict women's mobility and their ability to conduct livelihood tasks. There are concerns about possible linkages between migration, trafficking, and conflict-related sexual violence by armed groups, including violent extremist groups, operating in Yemen. However, such incidents are challenging to document as sexual violence in general is vastly underreported owing to shame, stigma and fear of retaliation, lack of service coverage, and the requirement that service providers refer cases to the police. The risk of honour crimes or tribal solutions to rape perpetuates the silence and underreporting.

Recommendation

74. I urge the Yemeni authorities, with support from the international community, to address sexual violence, including forced/child marriage and forced prostitution, by establishing safe houses and providing material support to displaced households headed by women, girls or war widows.

IV. Addressing sexual violence crimes in post-conflict settings

Bosnia and Herzegovina

75. More than two decades after the end of the conflict, survivors of wartime sexual violence continue to suffer the enduring effects of that crime, including socioeconomic marginalization and stigma. This leaves many reluctant to register as victims and thus unable to access redress. The Government and the United Nations continue to implement the joint programme "Seeking Care, Support and Justice for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence", which is aimed at enhancing the capacity of service providers, establishing a multisectoral referral system, harmonizing legislation and combating stigma. The new draft law on victims of torture in Republika Srpska in 2016 marked a major step forward for securing the rights of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence to services, justice and reparations, although safeguards need to be established to prevent registration from

giving rise to stigma. The *Decision on Civilian Victims of War of Brcko District* was amended to remove the requirement that survivors must secure a criminal judgment before being eligible to access services. The past year also saw the integration of stigma-prevention efforts into the training of health and psychosocial support professionals, as well as innovative responses to stigma engaging religious groups. In 2016, 80 survivors of wartime sexual violence benefited from economic empowerment programmes. More than 60 survivors, including internally displaced persons and returnees, accessed free legal aid as a result of mobile teams being deployed to remote areas. Entitlements still vary across entities and cantons, and the legal obligation to provide economic opportunities, including preferential employment, to sexual violence survivors remains largely unimplemented. Greater efforts are also needed to prevent retraumatization. In 2016, several survivors expressed fear of public identification and intimidation when requests to appear in court were sent to them via the regular postal system in a small village where the perpetrators also live.

Recommendation

76. I urge the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to strengthen national institutions to uphold the rights of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence to services, including free legal assistance, reparations, housing and education for the children of rape survivors, and to allocate adequate resources for this purpose. I further encourage efforts to harmonize legislation to ensure that the rights of survivors and their children are consistently recognized, irrespective of where they reside.

Côte d'Ivoire

77. The wounds inflicted by the civil war in Côte d'Ivoire, and brought to light during the post-electoral crisis in 2010-2011, which saw a resurgence of sexual violence, have yet to fully heal. Nonetheless, the political situation has stabilized. The constitutional referendum of 30 October, and the parliamentary elections of 18 December both transpired peacefully, with no incidents of sexual violence reported. During a deployment of the Forces armées de Côte d'Ivoire to the Bouakani region, in response to intercommunal clashes, a soldier attempted to rape an 11-year-old girl. The military High Command responded immediately, requesting the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) to provide in-situ training to the troops on the army's zero-tolerance policy. Following this intervention, no further incidents were reported in the region. Overall, across the country, UNOCI verified seven cases of sexual violence committed by FACI soldiers in 2016. In each instance, the victim was referred to a centre for medical and psychosocial support and judicial action was taken, resulting in three convictions.

78. Challenges remain with respect to prosecuting sexual violence crimes connected with the post-electoral crisis. None of the 196 cases of sexual violence documented by the National Commission of Inquiry, which occurred between October 2010 and May 2011, have been adjudicated. The only cases that are currently subject to national or international justice concern individuals affiliated with the former President, Laurent Gbagbo. For example, the trial of former first lady Simone Ehivet Gbagbo on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including her alleged role in rapes and killings by pro-Gbagbo forces, commenced

on 31 May in Abidjan. The perception of partial justice has contributed to entrenching and perpetuating sexual and gender-based violence across the country. During the reporting period, UNOCI recorded 62 cases of rape: 13 were gang-rapes and 46 of the victims were children. Forty-two of the alleged perpetrators were arrested, but only 15 have been tried and convicted. The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights issued two circulars in 2016 calling on judicial authorities to refrain from classifying rape as a lesser crime (misdemeanour), and reminding law enforcement officials that medical certificates are not mandatory. The report of the National Commission for Reconciliation and Compensation of Victims, presented to the President, Alassane Ouattara, on 19 April, included a consolidated list of victims of successive crises between 1990 and 2012, sparking concern that returning refugees, including survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, may be denied victim status owing to their omission from the list. More broadly, there are continuing concerns that women in general, and sexual violence survivors in particular, may be forgotten victims in the design and delivery of reparations.

79. As part of efforts to advance implementation of the national programme on sexual and gender-based violence, United Nations Action convened a workshop in Abidjan in September to assess implementation gaps and strengthen coordination. In October, the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict organized a conference in Grand-Bassam, which provided a forum for senior military officers from the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan to exchange good practices and identify elements for new guidelines geared towards African armies. My Special Representative also visited the country in May to review the progress achieved and challenges remaining since the inclusion of the Forces armées de Côte d'Ivoire in the list annexed to the present report. Following this visit, President Ouattara signed a decree, dated 3 June, authorizing the creation of a national committee to combat conflict-related sexual violence, which would coordinate the Government's operational response. Pursuant to the decree, 30 officials of the Forces armées de Côte d'Ivoire and eight commanders of the Gendarmerie Nationale signed personal commitments to take action against sexual violence in their ranks. Such measures have translated into a reduced number of violations attributable to the military. As a consequence of having taken all reasonable measures in line with relevant Security Council resolutions, I am pleased to remove the Forces armées de Côte d'Ivoire from the list.

Recommendation

80. I commend the commitment of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to address conflict-related sexual violence and, as a condition of delisting, request the continued implementation of action plans for the defence and security forces, to ensure that all perpetrators are held accountable and that survivors receive services, justice and reparations. The United Nations will assess implementation one year following delisting.

Nepal

81. A decade after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, survivors of conflict-era sexual violence in Nepal continue to face barriers to access to services, justice and reparations, despite overall progress in the consolidation of

peace. February 2016 marked the end of the first phase of implementation of the national action plan on Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008). The Government recognized gaps in meeting its obligations under resolution 1820 (2008) and committed to allocating a dedicated budget, strengthening coordination and more closely involving victims' associations moving forward. The United Nations trained survivors of wartime sexual violence in advocacy, leadership and resource-mobilization skills, which encouraged many to share their stories, and organized a peer-counselling workshop for survivors, facilitated by women from Guatemala and Cambodia. UNICEF partnered with the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare to ensure that "conflict-affected children", a category that includes children born as a result of rape by armed forces or groups during the insurgency, would be eligible for services and protection from the State. The country's transitional justice commissions, which are operating under severe delays, have received approximately 250 complaints of conflict-related sexual violence, and will require adequate resources to process them.

Recommendation

82. I urge the Government of Nepal to formally recognize survivors of conflict-related sexual violence as victims of war, enabling them to access national relief and recovery programmes and helping to reduce stigma; to support the transitional justice commissions to administer survivor-centred justice; and to focus the second phase of its national action plan on services and reparations.

Sri Lanka

83. Seven years after the end of its 30-year civil war, Sri Lanka has embarked on a process of transitional justice and reconciliation. Yet, just as the conflict had a disproportionate impact on women's physical and economic security, the post-conflict environment has placed a heavy financial and care burden on women. Single women head one quarter of all households. Their plight is compounded by the sociocultural stigma attached to widowhood and to sexual violence, as well as by the limited psychosocial support available to those traumatized by war. The culture of violence, entrenched during the civil war era, is viewed as a driver of continuing gender-based crimes, which afflict all nine provinces. The situation is exacerbated by weak law enforcement and delays in the administration of justice.

84. In November 2016, the Committee against Torture observed that serious allegations of torture of a sexual nature continue. The International Truth and Justice Project released a report documenting 20 cases of sexual violence and torture, including eight gang rapes and five rapes of minors, allegedly committed by members of the police and military intelligence in 2015, and called for effective reform and vetting of the national security apparatus. The United Nations has requested that the authorities duly investigate the allegations. On 16 November, the Government launched a national action plan to address sexual and gender-based violence, which generated a specific policy to support women-headed households, including in previously conflict-affected areas of the north and east. In January 2016, the Government appointed a civil society task force to conduct a national consultation on the design of an inclusive transitional justice mechanism. The task force, which includes the voices of sexual violence survivors, has made valuable recommendations, including on institutional reform.

Recommendation

85. I call on the Government of Sri Lanka to continue to support the meaningful participation of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in the design and delivery of transitional justice, and to ensure that there is full accountability, including of security sector actors, to deter future crimes. I encourage sustained political resolve and resources for the implementation of national plans to combat sexual and gender-based violence and to support female-headed households.

V. Other situations of concern

Burundi

86. The onset of the political crisis in 2015 led to a pattern of crimes of sexual violence committed by members of the security forces, including the police, military and the ruling party's youth league, the Imbonerakure. Following attacks on military camps in December 2015, 13 cases of sexual violence occurred as part of reprisals against communities perceived to support the opposition. In each case, security forces entered the victim's home, separated women and girls from their family and subjected them to rape or gang-rape. Since then, the space for monitoring violations has drastically diminished. Service-providers indicate that addressing sexual violence by State forces may imperil their staff and operations. Since the Government suspended its cooperation with OHCHR on 11 October 2016, the United Nations has been unable to verify subsequent reports. For example, between August and November, 19 cases of sexual violence allegedly involving the police and the Imbonerakure were reported, but remain unconfirmed. Likewise, hundreds of reports that children were raped during night patrols and house searches could not be verified. In 2016, such operations continued on an almost daily basis in areas perceived to be opposition strongholds. In that context, sexual assault may have served as a form of reprisal or persecution, often being accompanied by insults based on the victim's perceived political or ethnic affiliation.

87. Female-headed households, adolescent girls, widows, internally displaced persons and returnees face a heightened risk of sexual violence/exploitation in a climate of impunity and economic fragility. Underreporting owing to stigma, insecurity and fear of retaliation is compounded where the perpetrators are part of the State security apparatus or are politically connected. Reports from service providers indicate that 518 incidents of sexual violence occurred in Burundi or during flight from the country in 2016. The Government has developed plans to fight gender-based violence and to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and 2016 saw the adoption of new legislation on gender-based violence and the establishment of specialized gender-based violence chambers to fast-track cases. The Government is also piloting specialized police units on sexual and gender-based violence in several provinces.

Recommendation

88. I call on the authorities of Burundi to facilitate human rights monitoring, including by resuming cooperation with OHCHR; to enable humanitarian actors and service providers to deliver assistance to sexual violence survivors, including

internally displaced persons and returnees; and to ensure that those responsible for such crimes are held accountable.

Nigeria

89. Despite military gains made against Boko Haram, women and girls remain exposed to the risk of sexual violence and other crimes, including being used as suicide bombers. Efforts led by the Government to secure the release of the girls abducted from Chibok and others held in captivity continued in 2016. Hundreds managed to escape or were rescued, with many returning pregnant or with babies, some having contracted HIV. Their accounts corroborate information received about forced marriage, forced pregnancy and sexual slavery by Boko Haram. Those living in Boko Haram-controlled areas who were compelled to marry insurgents face acute stigma and discrimination. Additional concerns have been raised when women and children released from Boko Haram are held for prolonged periods by the national security forces for screening and detention, often on the grounds that they were married to fighters. Children born to abducted women and girls face ostracism and guilt by association. While religious and traditional leaders have become increasingly open to accepting these women and children, many displaced communities remain deeply distrustful of returnees.

90. Women and girls displaced by conflict face a serious risk of sexual violence. Approximately 90 per cent of those affected by conflict in north-east Nigeria do not have access to basic services. As a result, women and girls have been forced to exchange sex for food and other essential supplies, and early marriages of girls to older men are on the rise, as an ostensible protection mechanism and source of income for desperate families. During the reporting period, 43 cases of sexual violence were allegedly perpetrated by security guards, army officers, camp officials, members of the Civilian Joint Task Force and vigilantes. In December 2016, nine officers were reportedly arrested and are currently standing trial. The Government has also deployed 100 female police officers to displacement sites to make services more accessible to women and girls. However, despite this progress, and the efforts made by the United Nations to strengthen service provision, access to lifesaving assistance is limited. Just 2 per cent of the survivors of gender-based violence that sought medical care were able to access it. Additionally, it is estimated that almost half of all survivors decline to report sexual violence because of a lack of trust in formal and informal justice systems, a prevailing culture of impunity, fear of stigma and personal risk.

Recommendation

91. **I urge the Nigerian authorities to ensure accountability for sexual violence crimes, improve service delivery and enhance protection measures both in communities and in settings where women and girls seek refuge. Socioeconomic reintegration support should be provided to women and girls returning from Boko Haram captivity, who should be considered victims, not affiliates.**

VI. Recommendations

I urge the Security Council:

(a) **To ensure that efforts to prevent violent extremism and counter terrorism reinforce efforts to prevent sexual violence in conflict, including through the work of relevant sanctions committees, such as the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015), noting that any person or entity who transfers funds to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) directly or indirectly in connection with sexual violence or exploitation would be eligible for listing;**

(b) **To continue to include sexual violence as part of the designation criteria for sanctions, to ensure that dedicated gender and conflict-related sexual violence expertise informs the work of sanctions committees and monitoring entities and to invite my Special Representative to share information with sanctions committees, as appropriate;**

(c) **To continue to address the nexus between trafficking in persons and conflict-related sexual violence, including by terrorist groups, further to resolution 2331 (2016);**

(d) **To support engagement with State and non-State parties to conflict for specific commitments and prevention plans on conflict-related sexual violence, in line with resolutions 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013) and 2331 (2016), and to systematically monitor their compliance;**

(e) **To employ all means at its disposal to influence State and non-State parties to conflict to comply with international law, including by referring matters to the International Criminal Court. Referrals should apply to individuals who commit, command or condone (by failing to prevent or punish) sexual violence;**

(f) **To give due consideration to the risk factors and early-warning signs of sexual violence in its monitoring of conflict situations, especially in relation to periods of rising violent extremism, political instability, elections, civil strife and mass population movements;**

(g) **To use its periodic field visits to focus attention on conflict-related sexual violence concerns, soliciting the views of affected communities and survivors' associations;**

(h) **To ensure the accelerated deployment of women's protection advisers in order to facilitate implementation of successive resolutions on sexual violence in conflict, including the new monitoring requirements set out in resolution 2331 (2016), and to support the inclusion of such posts in regular budgets.**

I encourage Member States and regional organizations:

(a) **To revise national legal and policy frameworks to ensure that survivors of sexual violence committed by armed and/or terrorist groups are recognized as legitimate victims of conflict and/or terrorism, in order to benefit from reparations and redress;**

(b) To put in place legislative and institutional arrangements to comprehensively address conflict-related sexual violence and prevent its recurrence, including health care, psychosocial support, socioeconomic reintegration and livelihood assistance; shelters; legal aid; victim and witness protection laws and programmes; effective prosecution of sexual violence crimes; safeguards to prevent individuals accused of violations from being recruited, retained or promoted within the security forces (vetting); the exclusion of such crimes from general amnesties and statutes of limitations; education that fosters gender equality; and programmes to ensure that women, including those who become pregnant as a result of rape, have the information, support and services that they need, including measures for the safe termination of unwanted pregnancies. In these efforts, particular attention should be paid to ethnic or religious minorities, women in rural or remote areas, those living with disabilities, male survivors, women and children associated with armed groups, women and children released from situations of abduction, forced marriage, sexual slavery and trafficking by armed groups, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, noting that different forms of sexual violence may require specialized responses;

(c) To improve conviction rates for crimes of sexual violence by integrating legal support options with medical and psychosocial care and extending the reach of these services to remote and conflict-affected areas;

(d) To give due consideration to recognizing conflict-related sexual violence as a form of persecution that may serve as grounds for asylum or refugee status;

(e) To ensure that all refugee-receiving countries adopt measures to mitigate the risk of sexual violence, to make services available to survivors and to provide them with the option to document their cases for future accountability processes;

(f) To give consideration to clarifying the legal status of undocumented refugee children, including children conceived as a result of rape, and the right of mothers to confer their nationality upon their children, in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, to avoid possible statelessness;

(g) To support community mobilization campaigns to help shift the stigma of sexual violence from the victims to the perpetrators, including by engaging with religious and traditional leaders, as well as local journalists and human rights defenders;

(h) To increase the representation of women in national police services, and to establish specialized units within the police, given the positive correlation between the percentage of female officers and the reporting rates for sexual violence crimes, and the need to ensure that detained women are held under the supervision of female guards;

(i) To ensure that ceasefire and peace agreements signed contain provisions that, at a minimum, stipulate sexual violence as a prohibited act in the definition of ceasefire;

(j) To ensure that gender capacity is included in ceasefire monitoring and verification arrangements and teams, which should include both female and male observers, and call upon mediators to include expertise on gender and conflict-related sexual violence as part of mediation support teams;

(k) To ensure that all efforts to document and investigate sexual violence are survivor-centred and guided by the principles of security, confidentiality, anonymity and informed consent;

(l) To ensure that regional bodies enhance cooperation in terms of information-sharing and documentation, the detection of and assistance to trafficking victims, the training of security forces, extradition and legal assistance and the exchange of good practices in combatting sexual violence crimes;

(m) To ensure that national action plans on women, peace and security and on preventing violent extremism are complementary, and to work with the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate to include relevant information on trafficking in persons and sexual violence in country assessments, as appropriate, in close cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, consistent with the recognition of the links between transnational organized crime and the financing of terrorism in resolution 2331 (2016);

(n) To train peacekeeping personnel on gender sensitivity, preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, and addressing conflict-related sexual violence as a mandatory component of predeployment training, as well as on ways to better identify and respond to indicators of trafficking in persons in areas affected by conflict, in line with resolution 2331 (2016);

(o) To ensure that national forces listed in the annex to this report or those listed for grave violations against children are not deployed to peacekeeping operations;

(p) To address funding shortfalls for sexual and gender-based violence programming and sexual and reproductive health care in conflict-affected settings, given that these are lifesaving interventions;

(q) To draw upon the expertise of the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict and United Nations Action, and to ensure sustainable and regular funding for their valuable work.

Annex

List of parties credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape or other forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict on the agenda of the Security Council

The following list does not purport to be comprehensive, but rather includes parties for whom credible information is available. It should be noted that the names of countries appear only to indicate the locations in which parties are suspected of committing violations.

Parties in the Central African Republic

1. Non-State actors:
   (a) Lord's Resistance Army;
   (b) Ex-Séléka coalition;
   (c) Révolution et justice;
   (d) Front démocratique du peuple centrafricain;
   (e) Anti-balaka forces, including associated elements of the armed forces of the Central African Republic.

Parties in Côte d'Ivoire

1. Non-State actors:
   (a) Alliance patriotique de l'ethnie Wé;
   (b) Front pour la libération du Grand Ouest;
   (c) Mouvement ivoirien de libération de l'ouest de la Côte d'Ivoire;
   (d) Union patriotique de résistance du Grand Ouest.

Parties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

1. Non-State actors:
   (a) Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain;
   (b) Allied Democratic Forces — National Army for the Liberation of Uganda;
   (c) Forces pour la défense du Congo;
   (d) Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda;
   (e) Forces de résistance patriotiques en Ituri/"Colonel" Adirodhu Mbadhu/"Colonel" Kakado;
   (f) Lord's Resistance Army;
   (g) Mai Mai Cheka/Nduma Defence for Congo;

(h) Mai Mai Kifuafua;

(i) Mai Mai Simba Manu;

(j) Mai Mai Simba Mangaribi;

(k) Mai Mai Simba/Lumumba;

(l) Nyatura;

(m) All Raia Mutomboki factions.

2. State actors:

(a) Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo;*

(b) Police nationale congolaise.*

Parties in Iraq

1. Non-State actors:

(a) Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

Parties in Mali

1. Non-State actors:

(a) Mouvement national pour la libération de l'Azawad;

(b) Ansar Eddine;

(c) Mouvement pour l'unification et le jihad en Afrique de l'ouest;

(d) Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb;

(e) Groupe d'autodéfense Touaregs Imghad et leurs alliés.

Parties in Somalia

1. Non-State actors:

(a) Al-Shabaab.

2. State actors:

(a) Somali National Army;*

(b) Somali national police force* (and allied militia);

(c) Puntland military.

Parties in the Sudan

1. Non-State actors:

(a) Justice and Equality Movement.

* Party has committed to adopting measures to address conflict-related sexual violence.

2. State actors:

   (a) Sudanese armed forces;

   (b) Rapid Support Forces.

Parties in South Sudan

1. Non-State actors:

   (a) Lord's Resistance Army;

   (b) Justice and Equality Movement;

   (c) Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army-in-Opposition;*

2. State actors:

   (a) Sudan People's Liberation Army;*

   (b) South Sudan National Police Service.*

Parties in the Syrian Arab Republic

1. Non-State actors:

   (a) Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant;

   (b) Hay'at Tahrir Al-Sham (formerly Nusrah Front);

   (c) Army of Islam;

   (d) Ahrar al-Sham;

   (e) Pro-Government forces, including the National Defence Forces militia.

2. State actors:

   (a) Syrian armed forces;

   (b) Intelligence services.

Other parties of concern on the agenda of the Security Council

1. Non-State actors:

   (a) Boko Haram.